

CLAIMS

1. A portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance, comprising:

means for inputting information;

a central processor coupled to said means for inputting information to generate a shopping list, wherein said central processor includes application software to maintain a budget and to perform finance computations;

means for securing memory coupled to said central processor to safeguard personal and financial information;

means for outputting said shopping list, and said personal and said financial information; and

a display to view said shopping list.

2. The portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance according to claim 1 wherein said means for inputting information is a radio receiver, said radio receiver receives signals from a radio transmitter coupled to a merchant computer, whereby the merchant computer transmits product information in response to a signal by said purchasing aid logistics appliance for product information.

3. The portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance according to claim 1 wherein said means for inputting information is an internet port, said internet port is connectable to a personal computer linked to a merchant web site, whereby the merchant web site downloads product information to said internet

port in response to a signal by the personal computer for product information.

4. The portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance according to claim 1 wherein said means for inputting information is a bar code scanner, whereby said bar code scanner scans print media bar codes having product information and generates bar code signals to said central processor for further processing.

5. The portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance according to claim 4 wherein said central processor compares said shopping list to said bar code signals to determine whether product is a new product to add to said shopping list or an existing product, whereby said central processor tracks the total cost of products scanned, the remaining products to be scanned, and the available funds remaining in the budget.

6. The portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance according to claim 4 wherein said central processor includes executable software to convert bar code signals into a web page to be displayed on said display.

7. The portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance according to claim 6 wherein said executable software includes:

a decoder having HTML, JAVA and WAP decode tables;

a parser having a modifying table to construct frame software;
and

a display browser,

whereby a bar code containing either HTML, JAVA or WAP script can be converted into a web page.

8. The portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance according to claim 1 wherein said means for inputting information is a keypad to input product information, personal information, and financial information

9. The portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance according to claim 1 wherein said means for inputting information is a magnetic stripe reader.

10. The portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance according to claim 1 wherein said means for securing memory includes a smart card reader and encryption circuitry.

11. The portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance according to claim 1 wherein said central processor transmits a first signal to said means for outputting, whereby said means for outputting transmits said first signal to a merchant computer.

12. The portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance according to claim 11 wherein said first signal comprises a credit card number and personal identification number.

13. The portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance according to claim 11 wherein said first signal comprises said shopping list.

14. The portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance according to claim 11 wherein said first signal comprises a debit card number and personal identification number.

15. The portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance according to claim 1 wherein said means for outputting includes a radio transmitter.

16. The portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance according to claim 15 wherein said means for outputting controls signal strength to communicate with a merchant sales register to minimize the possibility of transmission interception.

17. The portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance according to claim 10 wherein said central processor further includes executable software to compare smart card information and user personal identification number to data stored in a smart card and said central processor to prevent unauthorized use of said portable 2-way secure purchasing aid logistics appliance.

18. A method for using a purchasing aid logistics appliance, comprising:

downloading product data from a web site or bar coded advertisement;

creating a shopping list from said product data;

transmitting said shopping list to a merchant computer upon entry into a merchant facility;

receiving product data from said merchant computer upon entry into said merchant facility;

scanning a product bar code when a product is removed from the shelf and placed in a shopping cart for purchase;

creating a shopping cart file when said product is scanned; and

transmitting said shopping cart file to said merchant computer to checkout.

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19. A purchasing aid logistics appliance comprising,

means for creating a shopping list outside a merchant facility;

means for storing said shopping list and user personal information;

means for automatically uploading said shopping list to a merchant computer upon entry into said merchant facility;

means for two-way data and voice communication with said merchant computer;

means for displaying said shopping list;

means for optically inputting product information data;

means for electronic payment; and

means for calculating total price of items selected.

20. The appliance as defined in 18 wherein said means for storing is secure.